Vol. 15. Numb. 21

The Athenian Mercury.

Tuesday, November 13. 1694.

IN the **Account of Mr. Maſon's Life and Death**, lately publiſh'd, there is inſerted a *Poem* upon *Death*; written with Mr. *Maſon's* own hand, which we were deſired to inſert here, for the more general diſperſing of it, though we think the LETTERS Mr. *Maſon* ſent to ſeveral of his Friends, (annex'd to this *Account of his Life and Death*) deſerve as general a Publication, they being alſo of ſingular uſe to promote the Power of Godlineſs both in perſons and Families.

Mr. Maſon's *Poem upon Death.*

1. METhinks the Hour is come,
The hour that goes before my Doom;
My Doom that ever ſhall abide.
Methinks my Pulſe is low,
And my breath quick haſting to go,
And my poor Friends ſtand grieving by my ſide.

Methinks my heart is weak
Surcharg'd with pain, ready to break;
Methinks my Eyes are fixed in my head,
Looking, but knowing none,
And ſcarce my ſelf by ſtanders-by am known;
My hands and feet are ſtark, and other parts near dead.

Methinks Death's door is ope'
And in I muſt, there is no hope:
Fain would they ſtay me, but I give a groan,
I give my Farewel-ſigh,
And like a clod of Earth I lie,
At which, agaſt they cry, *he's gone, he's gone.*

Methinks I am cold Clay,
Which in the dark deep Earth they lay,
Where I obſcurely melt, and am not ſeen,
Till one dig up the ſtones,
And asks, whoſe Skull is this, whoſe are theſe Bones?
And now I am as if I ne're had been.

Theſe ſtories peirce my heart,
Like a black ſentence, like a dart.
Canſt bear it? yes, I hear my Lord was dead;
And in a Rock was lain,
Whoſe Death makes mine both Life and Gain,
Whoſe Grave turns mine into a Roſie-bed.

My ſoul his Purchaſe is,
And for my body he gave his;
Nor will he loſe the things for which he bled,
He'll take my living ſoul,
And be a Guardian to my duſt and mould,
In his dear boſom, I lay down my head.

Queſt. 2. *I requeſt Gentlemen, that you'd be pleaſed to reconcile the ſeeming contradictions in the four Evangeliſts about the ſuffering of our Saviour?*

Anſw. They all four agree in the principal Circumſtances of this Hiſtory, except one, wherein St. *Mark* and St. *John* ſeem differently to relate the time of his Crucifixion. They unanimouſly ſay that darkneſs covered the whole Earth from the ſixth hour until the ninth hour, during which time the Saviour of the world was nailed to the Croſs. But St. *John* ſays 'twas *about the ſixth hour*, ὡς ἕκτη ὥσει ἦν, that *Pilate* was ſtill ſitting upon his Tribunal, and ſaid, after having ſcourged Jeſus with Rods, *Behold your King*, 19. 14. and St. *Mark* 15. 25. *Now it was the third hour*, καὶ ἐσταύρωσαν αὐτόν. *and they crucified him.* We might here make ſome Remarks upon the Original and Invention of hours, of their diviſion into four quarters, of three hours each, into double hours, ſix of which made a day; upon the four watches of the night, and the common diviſion of the day into morning, noon and evening; and of the manner of beginning the day, and counting the hours amongſt the *Jews*, but that the digreſſion would be too tedious for this place; and therefore we ſhall omit it, and endeavour to reconcile them in as brief terms as we can. The *Jews* aſſembled early in the morning to conſult how they might deſtroy Jeſus, and reſolved in this aſſembly to accuſe him before the governour. And this accuſation was made *at the third hour*, or at the ninth hour in the morning, which is a circumſtance that none of the *Evangeliſts* but St. *Mark* has preciſely obſerved. So that theſe words, *Now it was the third hour*, ought to be conſidered as a *parentheſis* which relates to what proceeded; as if the ſacred *Hiſtorian*, after having related their accuſations againſt our Saviour, and the ſentence that *Pilate* pronounced upon him before he paſſed to the crucifixion, which was the conſequence of it, deſigned to ſpeak of the time in which Jeſus was brought before the governour. 'Tis by a like method that the ſame *Evangeliſt* concludes the crucifixion, *v.* 33. *Now the ſixth hour being come, there was darkneſs over the whole Land until the ninth hour.* As this expreſſion did not ſignify that the crucifixion and all the circumſtances of it, which St. *Mark* had related, were paſſed before the ſixth hour; but on the contrary that they began at that time: So theſe words, *Now it was the third hour*, that our *Evangeliſt* ſpeaks, after having given the hiſtory of the *Jews* Proceſs againſt Jeſus Chriſt, ſignifies, that he entered at the Ninth hour in the morning: And it was about the Ninth hour that the *Romans* uſed to give audienoe. And in reſpect to St *John*'s manner of ſpeaking, That it was *about the ſixth hour* when *Pilate* ſaid to the *Jews*, *behold your King*, we think no one can make any difficulty of it, ſince every one knows that in our vulgar Languages we ſay, it is *about noon*, altho it be but a little paſt Eleven, or near one; and in the ſpace of near two hours, many things might paſs.

Queſt. 3. *Is the Cauſe of the Wind the motion of the Planets? Or doth it riſe out of the Earth, as ſome hold?*

Anſw. Our Saviour, who knew Nature well enough, has told us, *we know not whence it comes, nor whither it goes.* The Sun is certainly the cauſe of the Planets motions.

Queſt. 4. *How doth Sound ſo ſwiftly run through each particle of a Bell the ſame Inſtant of Time that the Clapper hits the ſide? Is Sound a Body, any more than the flame, or a flaſh of Powder*, &c.

Anſw. By Reaſon of the Contiguity of Matter. Sound is no Body, but Air, ſo and ſo modified, and put into ſuch and ſuch different Motions, which are as well diſtinguiſhable by the Ear, as Taſts by the Palate.

Queſt. 5. *Is there, do you think, ſo large a part of the World ſtill to diſcover, as* America?

Anſw. Yes.

Queſt. 6. *I've for a conſiderable time had a very paſſionate Love for a Gentlewoman that lives near me, but never yet had the happineſs of her Converſation, ſhe having very* preciſe Parents: *My deſire is*, you'd *adviſe me how I may come to ſpeak with her, and make a Declaration of my Love?*

Anſw. How ſhould you? Go over and ask the Old Folks leave, who ten to one have more Wit than you; or elſe they han't liv'd to much purpoſe. You ſay they are *preciſe*, and it may be they think you extravagant, with more Reaſon: But let 'em be as preciſe as they will, there's no doubt but they'd be glad of a good match for their Daughter; and if you have a good Character, if your Circumſtances are agreeable, and your Fortune proportionable to hers, why not you as well as another? If they be not, e'ne ſhift for your ſelf; for we won't ſpeak a word for ye. THE

☞ THE *PROPOSALS* mentioned in *Thursday's Gazette*, for Printing a *GENERAL HISTORY OF ENGLAND*, pursuant to the Model and Directions laid down by Sir *William Temple*, in his late Introduction to the *History of* England, will be publish'd now in a few days. Several Persons of *Eminent Quality* have already promised their assistance, by *Manuscripts* and otherwise, towards the carrying on of this Great Work. Of the *Original Papers*, &c. a large account will be given in the *Proposals*, by that *Learned Gentleman* who has actually undertaken this *Province*, and who resolves to spare no costs nor charges in the finishing of it.

☞ THE Ingenious *Emilia* is already come in to the assistance of the *Young Lady* who sent the CHALLENGE to Sir *Thomas* ——— mentioned in the last *Mercury*. Sir *Thomas* ———'s 47*th Letter* is against the Luxury of **COMMODES*, and *Womens Head-Dresses*. The Ingenious *Emilia* has promis'd to answer this 47*th Letter*—— But this for a Taste, the *Undertaker* designing to insert in the following *Mercuries* those other 599 Subjects that the *Ladies* are to defend against Sir *Thomas* ——— The *NAMES* of all the Ladies that engage in this CHALLENGE, shall be inserted in the *Athenian Mercury*, from time to time, as they come to hand.

* A *French Piece* against *COMMODES*, &c. will be speedily publish'd in *English*.

Advertisement.

A Good Gardiner, middle-aged, and not married, shall have 10 *l.* a year. Enquire at the *Angel* in the *Poultrey* for a further account.

The Double Chance.

TO be drawn at twice, wherein all that shall not have Benefits the first drawing, shall have their Tickets that arise with Blanks, put into the glass again, and drawn a second time, in which there will be but about four to one against them to recover their money again.

There will be given out 50000 Tickets, at 20*s. per* Ticket, to answer which 50000 *l.* will be drawn at twice, *viz.* in the First Drawing 40800 *l.* and in the Second Drawing 9200 *l.* to be lotted, *viz.*

Lotts.		*l.*
1	———	5000
1	———	2500
1	———	1500
1	———	1000
3	—of 500 *l.*—	1500
6	— of 200 —	1200
50	—of 100—	5000
60	—of 50 —	3000
60	— of 40—	2400
150	— of 30—	4500
300	—of 20—	6000
400	—of 10—	4000
400	—of 8—	3200
Lotts 1433		40800

All the Numbred Tickets shall be put into one Glass, as usual, and in the first Drawing be drawn against 40800 *l.* in the other Glass, Lotted, as above, with proportionable Blanks.

All those Numbred Tickets, which shall not have the Fortune to arise with Benefits in this First Drawing, shall be put into one Glass a second time; and in the other Glass 9000 Benefits of 20*s.* each, and be drawn again; besides which 20*s.* that Number'd Ticket which ariseth with the First, as also that which ariseth with the Last in the other Glass, shall have 100*l.* each, that is to say in the Second Drawing.

It is resolved to be drawn by the 14th of *December* next, 1694. and if not full, in proportion to what then is full. All when they receive their Benefits, are to abate 10 *l. per cent.* for Trouble and Charges of the undertaking.

We doubt not of speedy filling, not only from considerable Sums, which have been stopt from other Affairs of this kind to put in here, upon the Rumour of this, but also from these Advantages above others, *viz.*

First, But about 32 Blanks to a Benefit in the First Drawing.

Secondly, He that draws not a benefit the first drawing, hath but about Four to One against him, to recover his whole Money in the second drawing, besides 10 *l.* for the First, and 100*l.* for the Last Ticket.

Thirdly, He that puts in 100*l.* can be said to adventure but 80*l.* since he hath an equal Lay to recover about 20*l.* in the second drawing, and a possibility to recover more than all, and yet hath as fair an hit for the great benefits from 100 Tickets as if he really adventur'd 100*l.* and so for a greater or lesser Sum; whereas in others if they draw not a Benefit the first time their whole money is lost.

Fourthly, Whereas it is universally objected, that by mixing but a few blanks with benefits, 50000 Tickets cannot be so well shak'd, but a great number of the same must still continue at the bottom (that otherwise might have a good chance if all were drawn) and so impossible for them to have a chance, which chiefly occasion'd the misfortune at *Exeter Change*. Here it is resolv'd all shall be drawn, that both then and after, all may be satisfy'd the Tickets they paid their money for, were fairly put in, and fairly drawn.

The time of Drawing is upon each Ticket, with a Bill to return the money if not then drawn, also the Goldsmiths hath given Security to be accountable for what Money they receive; in whose hands the Money shall all lye till drawn, where all are to receive their Benefits.

This Undertaking being clear'd from all Objections made against the 50000*l.* lately drawn, is so much encourag'd, that the books are design'd to be shut up *speedily*.

Since an affair of this kind cannot legally be prosecuted without Licence from the Patentees of the *Royal Oak*, we though fit to insert, that we have a Licence under the Seal of their Office, as may be seen at Mr. *Smiths*, next *Bedford gate* in *Charles-street*, *Covent garden*. And that no Lottery, except one of between 16 and 17000 pounds, is so licensed by them, or will be licensed till this is drawn.

The following Persons have pleas'd to promise to be present, as Trustees, to see to the Fairness of the Management, *viz.* The Right Honourable the Earl of *Bullingbrook*, the Earl of *Roscommon*, the Honourable Collonel *Philip Howard*, Sir *Goddard Nelthorpe* Baronet, Sir *John Morden* Baronet, Sir *James Butler* Knight, Sir *John Mordant* Knight, Capt. *John Marlow*, Capt. *Sam. Westall*, Mr. *John Hester*, Mr. *Mathew Howard*, Mr. *Nicholas Cutler*, Mr. *Elias Turner*, Merchants.

Proposals and Tickets may be had of *John Sweetapple*, Esq; at the *Blackamoors Head*, Mr. *Joseph Horneby* at the *Star*, Mr. *Henry Lamb* at the *Unicorn*, Mr. *Tho. Williams* at the *Crown*, Mr. *Samuel Layfeild* at the *White Horse*, Mr. *William Shepherd* at the *Angel*, in *Lombard-street*; Mr. *John Blunt* the *Golden Anchor*, in St. *Bartholomew-lane*; Capt. *John Passil* the *Kings Arms*, Mr. *Ed. Harrison* the *Hen* and *Chickens*, in *Cheapside*; *Mr. Ja Marmion*, at *Ram-Alley* end in *Fleetstreet*; *Mr. John Foden* at the *Three Flower de luces* at *Fetterlane* end, Chpt. *Tho. Pitts* in *Holbourn*; *Mr. Robert Cooper* the *Golden Lyon*, near St. *Clements* Church, *Mr. George Hallet*, the Corner of *York Buildings*; *Mr. Richard Adams* the *Black Horse*, near *Charing Cross*; *Mr. Compton*, by *Clare* Market; *Mr. Charles Skelly* in *Panton street*, and *Mr. Nathaniel Green* near *Leicester Fields*; *Mr. Andrew Coleman* over against the Kings Brewhouse by the *Hermitage*, near St. *Catherines*, Goldsmiths; Mr. *Edw. Lloyds* Coffee-House in *Lombardstreet*; *Mr. Ja. Mashburne* Mercer at *Oxon*, Mr. *Crosley* at *Bristol*, Mr. *Rumbold* at *Cambridge*, Mr. *Nicholas Dixon*, next Sr. *Charles Cotterel's* in St. *Martins lane*, Mr. *M. Smith*, in *Covent Garden*. 'Tis design'd to be drawn in *Freemans Yard*, or some other convenient place in the City. The Prizes will be printed daily as they are drawn. *Marshal Smith. Nicholas Dixon.*

LONDON, Printed for John Dunton at the *Raven* in Jewen-Street, 1694.